

Sumter Visits Shaw AFB

Written by Scott R. Croskey
Friday, 09 July 2010 16:13 -

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The Sumter Composite Squadron visited Shaw Air Force Base on Tuesday, June 8, 2010 as part of their Aerospace Education meeting.

Sixteen cadets and seven senior members enjoyed two hours at the base learning about Air Force support units to flying squadrons.

The squadron took an hour to visit the Shaw air traffic control (ATC) tower where they met SSgt Kelsey Smith, SrA Charles Smith, and A1C Cochran of the USAF. The three air traffic controllers walked through all of the systems used in the tower to direct air traffic over a military airfield.

Cadets and seniors were given a tour of ATC systems such as radar, runway ILS systems,

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approach and ground procedures, and communications procedures for aircraft. Next, the squadron went to the 609th Air Communications Squadron to learn about the USCENTCOM Combined Air and Space Operations Center (CAOC). The CAOC is responsible for the production, dissemination, execution and analysis of all US and coalition air sorties within the USCENTCOM area of responsibility.

The squadron was introduced to the various communications systems provided to the warfighter, to include an introduction to UAV video dissemination, search and rescue (SAR) tracking, and the heart of the air tasking order (ATO) sortie system: TBMCS (Theater Battle Management Core System).